

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

December 6, 2013

Division: Fisheries

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 1:201 Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: Unlimited number of catfish harvested below trophy size and a daily harvest of 1 trophy catfish from each species for sportfish anglers fishing the Ohio River mainstem. (Trophy fish are defined as: over 35 inches for blue and flathead catfish; and over 28 inches for channel catfish).

Justification: KDFWR sampling data revealed that there is a decreasing trend for the relative numbers of trophy-sized catfish in the upper Ohio River (above Cannelton lock and Dam). Several years ago, the State of Ohio passed Ohio River catfish regulations for sportfish anglers, and the State of Indiana will also be pursuing those same restrictions. From a management perspective, it is important that states sharing the Ohio River attempt to manage our fisheries with comparable regulations. Such regulatory synchronization will allow us to better understand future effects that the regulations will have on the Ohio River catfish populations

Effective Date: May 15, 2014

Action Requested of Commission:

☐ File the Regulation

☒ Other: _____

Action Taken by Commission:

☐ File the Regulation

☐ Other: _____

Motion made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: **Approved** **Denied** **Referred back to Committee**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION
December 6, 2013

Division: Fisheries

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 1:155 **Regular or Emergency:** Regular

Proposed Recommendation: In the Ohio River and its tributaries open to commercial fishing:

- 1) A daily commercial harvest of an unlimited number of catfish below trophy size and a harvest of only 1 trophy catfish from each species.
 - a) Trophy catfish: blue and flathead catfish > 35 inches; channel catfish > 28 inches.
- 2) Special Quality Catfish Harvest Permit below the Cannelton Lock and Dam will allow, in addition to unlimited harvest of smaller catfish, a daily commercial harvest of 4 quality catfish (in aggregate):
 - a) Quality catfish: blue and flathead catfish > 40 inches; channel catfish > 30 inches;
 - b) Permit is free and issued to a maximum of 50 commercial fishermen that:
 1. Reported harvesting at least 10,000 pounds of catfish in at least two of the last three fishing years (n = 44); or
 2. Are randomly selected after registering in a lottery:
 - a. In 2014, the lottery will be held during the work week following passage of this regulation;
 - b. After 2014, if fewer than 50 permits have been issued by the first day of the commercial fishing season, remaining permits will distributed by lottery on the first work day of the week following opening day;
 - c. If fewer than 50 permits have been issued following the lottery in any year, permits remaining will be distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis;

Justification: KDFWR sampling data revealed that there is a decreasing trend for the relative numbers of trophy-sized catfish in the upper Ohio River (above Cannelton lock and Dam); however, the same trends were not observed in the lower pools. Consequently, regulations are necessary for the commercial harvest of trophy catfish in the Ohio River, but less restrictive commercial fishing regulations for the lower Ohio River would not negatively affecting trophy catfish numbers. However, since less restrictive regulations would promote additional commercial fishing pressure in the lower portion of the Ohio River, a concurrent permit would need to be implemented to limit the number of commercial fishermen who would be allowed more liberal harvest regulations. Commercial fishermen whose annual income significantly depends on Ohio River catfish harvest should be given first consideration for the more liberal harvest restrictions.

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Action Taken by Commission:
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____ Other: _____

Motion made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: **Approved** **Denied** **Referred back to Committee**

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December 6, 2013

Division: Fisheries

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 1:155 Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: Commercial fishermen daily harvest reports will be changed to include the following information:

- 1) Total number of catfish harvested by species;
- 2) Total number of trophy catfish harvested by species;
- 3) Ohio River pool where catfish are harvested.

Justification: KDFWR is committed to increasing our knowledge of catfish populations in Kentucky. It is important that more precise data is collected from the commercial industry regarding more specific descriptions of locations (river pools) and sizes of the fish harvested. This information will be valuable towards future management of catfish in Kentucky.

Effective Date: May 15, 2014

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
_____	_____

Motion made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: **Approved** **Denied** **Referred back to Committee**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

December 6, 2013

Division: Fisheries

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 1:155 Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: A resident of a state that does not offer non-resident commercial fishing licenses will not be allowed to purchase a Kentucky non-resident commercial fishing license. A grandfather clause will be in effect whereby non-resident commercial fishermen residing in states affected by this regulation would qualify to continue purchasing non-resident commercial fishing licenses until the non-resident does not renew their license in a year consecutive to the previous license purchased.

Justification: Kentucky commercial fishermen and sport anglers have requested a reciprocal, non-resident commercial fishing regulation. The Kentucky residents do not feel that it is fair for non-residents of states (that do not offer Kentucky residents commercial licenses) to be allowed to commercially fish in Kentucky waters.

Effective Date: May 15, 2014

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<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
_____	_____

Motion made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: Approved Denied Referred back to Committee

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

December 6, 2013

Division: Fisheries

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 1:155 Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: Allow commercial fishermen to accept Asian carp (with the intent to sell or process the fish for profit) from anglers fishing with a sportfish license. Anglers may not accept payment for the Asian carp.

Justification: In Kentucky, there has been a dramatic increase in the littering of Asian carp carcasses by licensed anglers; especially below Kentucky and Barkley dams. This is primarily because there is no easy method available to anglers to properly dispose of unwanted fish carcasses. The fish commonly weigh over 20 pounds, and this compounds the difficulty associated with handling the carcasses. Currently, licensed, sportfish anglers cannot give Asian carp to commercial fishermen or fish processors because the fish would eventually be sold for profit. This regulation would not only give anglers options for disposal, but also help some of the big snagging and bowfishing tournaments that typically pay to dispose of Asian carp in landfills. This regulation would only be for Asian carp since there are many potential issues concerning this activity for all other fish.

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Action Taken by Commission:

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Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: **Approved** **Denied** **Referred back to Committee**